Cancellation of licence granted to M.T.N.L. to operate cellular

621. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (T.R.A.I.) decided to cancel the licence granted to Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited to operate Cellular Services in Delhi and Mumbai; and

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) TRAI in their order dated 17.02.98 held the grant of licence issued by DOT to MTNL to commence and carry on the business of providing Mobile Cellular Telephone Services as also the paging services in Delhi & Mumbai as invalid because of non-compliance of provisions of clause (a) of sub-section 1 of Section 11 of TRAI ACT. The DOT filed an appeal in the Hon'ble High Court. The Judgment of Hon'ble High Court is awaited. The case is thus subjudice.

M.T.N.L. failure to bring out Directories

622. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:
SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M.T.N.L. has failed to bring out directories for the metros even after a gap of more than five years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the decade by which these directories are expected to see the light of the day?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Telephone directories for MTNL Delhi was last issued in December, 1994 and for Mumbai in 1995.

(b) A contract for Directory printing was drawn up and signed between MTNL and M/s M&N Publications in the year 1993. As per this contract, both main telephone directory and its supplementary issues were to be printed regularly for five years (from the year 1993 to 1998) every year. But breaching this agreement the company printed only one supplementary (1993 issue)and one main directory (1994 issue). Compelled by this contractual failure, MTNL management decided to terminate the contract with the company on 22.7.96.

(c) Fresh tender was once again called on 4th March, 1997 and based on the same a Letter of Intent has been issued to the selected firm for the Telephone Directory in Delhi. As soon as the firm completes the pre-contract formalities, the contract will be awarded and progressive delivery of directories is expected to commence after six months from the date of the award of the contract. For Mumbai, tender formalities are begin completed for award.

However, for the convenience of the customers, MTNL has brought out the directory twice on CD-ROM which is readily available on all Customer Service Centres of MTNL.

Basic Telecom Sector Circles

623. SHRI NILOTPALBASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of basic telecom sector circles;

(b) the number of circles for which there has been no bids;

(c) the number of circles for which LOIs have been issued;

(d) the number of circles for which licences have been issued;

(e) the roll out plan of all the licences with all details like investment, number